UNITED
NATIONS

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General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/51/504/Add.2
9 June 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Fifty-first session
Agenda item 135

FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS OBSERVER MISSION IN LIBERIA

Report of the Fifth Committee (Part III)

Rapporteur: Mr. Ihor V. HUMENNY (Ukraine)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The previous recommendations made by the Fifth Committee to the General Assembly under agenda item 135 appear in the report of the Committee contained in documents A/51/504 and Add.1.

2. The Fifth Committee resumed its consideration of the item at its 64th and 70th meetings, on 27 May and 6 June 1997. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/51/SR.64 and 70).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the report of the Secretary-General (A/51/756/Add.2) and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/51/423/Add.2).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.5/51/L.63

4. At the 70th meeting, on 6 June, the representative of Zimbabwe introduced a draft resolution entitled "Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia" (A/C.5/51/L.63), submitted by the Chairman on the basis of informal consultations.

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/51/L.63 without a vote (see para. 6).

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE

6. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia

The General Assembly,

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia,[1] the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions[2] and the relevant report of the Board of Auditors,[3]

Recalling Security Council resolution 866 (1993) of 22 September 1993, by which the Council established the United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia, and subsequent resolutions by which the Council extended the mandate of the Observer Mission, the latest of which was resolution 1100 (1997) of 27 March 1997,

Recalling also its decision 48/478 of 23 December 1993 on the financing of the Observer Mission and its subsequent resolutions and decisions thereon, the latest of which was resolution 51/3 B of 27 March 1997,

Reaffirming that the costs of the Observer Mission are expenses of the Organization to be borne by Member States in accordance with Article 17, paragraph 2, of the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling its previous decisions regarding the fact that, in order to meet the expenditures caused by the Observer Mission, a different procedure is required from that applied to meet expenditures of the regular budget of the United Nations,

Taking into account the fact that the economically more developed countries are in a position to make relatively larger contributions and that the economically less developed countries have a relatively limited capacity to contribute towards such an operation,

Bearing in mind the special responsibilities of the States permanent members of the Security Council, as indicated in General Assembly resolution 1874 (S-IV) of 27 June 1963, in the financing of such operations,

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[1] A/51/756/Add.2.

[2] A/51/423/Add.2.

[3] Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 5 (A/51/5), vol. II.

Mindful of the fact that it is essential to provide the Observer Mission with the necessary financial resources to enable it to fulfil its responsibilities under the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

1. Takes note of the status of contributions to the United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia as at 15 May 1997, including the contributions outstanding in the amount of 17,879,409 United States dollars, representing 16 per cent of the total assessed contributions from the inception of the Observer Mission to the period ending 30 June 1997, notes that some 16 per cent of the Member States have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States concerned, in particular those in arrears, to ensure the payment of their outstanding assessed contributions;

2. Expresses concern about the financial situation with regard to peacekeeping activities, in particular as regards the reimbursement of troop contributors, which bear burdens owing to overdue payments by Member States of their assessments;

3. Expresses its appreciation to those Member States which have paid their assessed contributions in full;

4. Urges all other Member States to make every possible effort to ensure payment of their assessed contributions to the Observer Mission in full and on time;

5. Endorses the observations and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions[2] and the report of the Board of Auditors;[3]

6. Requests the Secretary-General to take all necessary action to ensure that the Observer Mission is administered with a maximum of efficiency and economy;

7. Decides to appropriate to the Special Account for the United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia the amount of 20,447,100 dollars gross (18,918,300 dollars net) for the maintenance of the Observer Mission for the period from 1 July 1997 to 30 June 1998, inclusive of the amount of 758,700 dollars for the support account for peacekeeping operations, to be assessed on Member States at a monthly rate of 1,703,925 dollars gross (1,576,525 dollars net) in accordance with the composition of groups set out in paragraphs 3 and 4 of General Assembly resolution 43/232 of 1 March 1989, as adjusted by the Assembly in its resolutions 44/192 B of 21 December 1989, 45/269 of 27 August 1991, 46/198 A of 20 December 1991, 47/218 A of 23 December 1992, 49/249 A of 20 July 1995, 49/249 B of 14 September 1995, 50/224 of 11 April 1996 and 51/218 A and B of 18 December 1996 and its decisions 48/472 A of 23 December 1993 and 50/451 B of 23 December 1995, and taking into account the scale of assessments for the years 1997, as set out in its resolution 49/19 B of 23 December 1994 and its decision 50/471 A of 23 December 1995, and 1998,[4] subject to the decision of the Security Council to extend the mandate of the Observer Mission beyond 30 June 1997;

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[4] To be adopted by the General Assembly.

8. Decides also that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973 (X) of 15 December 1955, there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 7 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of the estimated staff assessment income of 1,528,800 dollars approved for the Observer Mission for the period from 1 July 1997 to 30 June 1998;

9. Invites voluntary contributions to the Observer Mission in cash and in the form of services and supplies acceptable to the Secretary-General, to be administered, as appropriate, in accordance with the procedure and practices established by the General Assembly;

10. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia".